

From: Andy Barrus
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 1:55pm
Subject: Penalty, What Penalty?

I'm not sure why this forum is here but feel compelled to write. I am appalled at the injustice done to the American people with the recent settlement in the Microsoft anti-trust case. Here is a company that willfully violated previous agreements and penalties and now they can keep doing business as usual. Where is the penalty? Please take a look at how many companies are no longer in business (or not a factor) as a direct result of Microsoft's business practices. Netscape, WordPerfect, Novell, Claris...I'm sure the list is quite extensive.

Please don't buy into the Bill Gates rhetoric that his company should be free to innovate. The only innovation Microsoft can take credit for is taking monopolistic business practices to a higher degree than any company previously. The majority of "innovations" Microsoft takes credit for were already in place by Novell, Apple, and other companies.

What about the court findings? Weren't they (Microsoft) guilty this time as they were in previous proceedings? The soft penalties did not stop them in the past; what makes you think it will stop them this time? I am glad our criminal court system at least puts convicted murderers and rapists behind bars and doesn't just slap their wrists when they say we won't do it anymore.